

Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-05

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DRAFTED BY OES/APT/SEP:WFDECLERCQ:JAC

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EUR/EE:HDUNLOP (DRAFT)

NAS/OFS:LMITCHELL (DRAFT)

SCIATT:SSMITH (DRAFT)

DOT/TPI:DROBERTS (DRAFT)

NSF/OIP:RHULL (DRAFT)

HEW/OIH:RFISHCHER (DRAFT)

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TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652:

TAGS: OEXC, TGEN, RO

SUBJECT: MID-TERM EXCHANGES REVIEW: ARTICLE II - SCIENCE,
TECHNOLOGY AND HEALTH.

REF: STATE 36541

1. REVIEW OF ARTICLE II WAS HELD MORNING OF FEB. 12.
ROMANIAN SIDE WAS CHAIRED BY MITRAN, WHO ALSO SERVED AS
PRINCIPAL SPOKESMAN; MATAACHE SAID VERY LITTLE. US SIDE,
WHICH INCLUDED REPRESENTATIVES FROM NSF, ERDA, NAS, DOT
AND HEW, WAS CHAIRED BY WILLIAM ROOT, ACTING DIRECTOR OF
OES/APT/SEP. ROMANIANS HAD HELD SEPARATE MEETINGS WITH
IREX IN NEW YORK CITY (SEE STATE 34921).
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2. SPECIFIC PROBLEMS CONCERNING THE NSF PROGRAM HAD AL-
READY BEEN DISCUSSED WITH MATAACHE AT SEPARATE MEETINGS AT
NSF. NSF REP. (ROBERT HULL) NOTED THAT THE US LOOKED
FORWARD WITH ANTICIPATION TO THE NEW ROMANIAN 5-YEAR PLAN

RESULTING IN BETTER COORDINATION, PRIMARILY WITHIN ROMANIA BUT ALSO BETWEEN ROMANIA AND THE US. HE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THE PRIORITY AREAS SELECTED BY THE ROMANIANS FOR COOPERATION WOULD ALSO BE OF HIGH PRIORITY TO THE US. MATACHE RECOGNIZED THAT THERE HAD BEEN BAD NEWS AS WELL AS GOOD NEWS BUT STRESSED THAT NSF HAD GIVEN FULL SUPPORT

TO THE PROGRAM AND THAT ROMANIA WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO FEWER DIFFICULTIES IN THE FUTURE.

3. ERDA REP. (DR. BILLY HILL) NOTED THAT ERDA HAD RECEIVED MANY ROMANIAN SCIENTISTS IN THE PAST AND HAD BEEN IMPRESSED WITH THE CALIBER OF RESEARCH THEY HAD PERFORMED AT ERDA LABS. ERDA WOULD WELCOME MORE SUCH SCIENTIFIC VISITS. REFERRING TO THE 10 RESEARCH PROPOSALS HANDCARRIED TO ERDA BY PROF. RODEAN THREE MONTHS AGO, HE STATED THAT ERDA HAD IDENTIFIED SEVERAL AREAS THAT OFFER POTENTIAL FOR FURTHER DETAILED DISCUSSION. WHILE HE WAS OPTIMISTIC THAT SOME AREAS MAY BE OF MUTUAL BENEFIT, HE STRESSED THAT ANY SUCH IDENTIFICATION WOULD BE PRELIMINARY BECAUSE WE LACK DETAILED, DOCUMENTED INFORMATION ON THE LEVEL OF ROMANIAN EFFORTS IN RESEARCH (INCLUDING NUCLEAR RESEARCH) OF THE TYPE WE HAVE SUPPLIED TO THEM. OF THE 10 RESEARCH PROPOSALS, 3 DEAL WITH LIGHT WATER REACTOR SAFETY AND ARE THUS UNDER THE PURVIEW OF THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION (NRC). ERDA HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH NRC, AND NRC IS WILLING TO HOLD DISCUSSIONS TO DETERMINE WHETHER THERE MAY BE A BASIS FOR MUTUAL BENEFIT. MITRAN SUGGESTED THAT ERDA FIRST IDENTIFY AREAS OF INTEREST AND THEN DISCUSS THESE IN DEPTH. DR. JACK VANDERRYIN FROM ERDA RESPONDED THAT, IN ERDA'S EXPERIENCE, IT IS NECESSARY TO GO THROUGH THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON NATIONAL ACTIVITIES BEFORE AREAS OF COOPERATION ARE SELECTED.

4. THE ROMANIANS RAISED THEIR INTEREST IN REPHRASING THE UNCLASSIFIED

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MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) WHICH HAD BEEN CONCLUDED LONG AGO WITH THE AEC. AS RATIONALE, THEY POINTED TO THE REORGANIZATION OF THE AEC AND TO THE FACT THAT THE SCOPE OF ERDA'S ACTIVITIES IS MUCH BROADER THAN THAT OF THE STATE COMMITTEE FOR NUCLEAR ENERGY (SNCE). MR. ANDREWS CAUTIONED THAT IN VIEW OF THE NUMBER OF INVOLVED GOVERNMENT AGENCIES IN BOTH COUNTRIES (ERDA, NRC, SCNE, NCST) THERE ARE AT LEAST FOUR POSSIBLE PERMUTATIONS OF AGREEMENTS. HILL STATED THAT UNDER THE PRESENT UM BRELLA AGREEMENT OF DECEMBER 1974, THE ORIGINAL MOU REMAINS IN EFFECT. ERDA WELCOMES GOR VIEWS ON THE MOU BUT BEFORE CONCLUDING A NEW AGREEMENT, HILL REPEATED THAT IT IS NECESSARY TO IDENTIFY AREAS OF MUTUAL BENEFIT. WE PREFER AN AGREEMENT WITH A FEW WELL DEFINED SUBSTANTIVE

AREAS.

5. IN RESPONSE TO THE ROMANIAN QUESTION WHETHER ERDA COULD ADOPT "RECEIVING SIDE PAYS" ARRANGEMENTS, HILL SAID THAT ERDA OPERATES ON THE "SENDING SIDE PAYS" PRINCIPLE,

AS DOES NASA. THIS POSITION, SAID MITRAN, CREATES DIFFICULTIES FOR THE GOR, WHICH PREFERS THAT THE SENDING SIDE PAY TRANSPORTATION TO A POINT OF ENTRY ON THE RECEIVING SIDE, AT WHICH TIME THE RECEIVING SIDE WOULD ASSUME FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY. HILL INDICATED THAT THIS WAS A POLICY MATTER WHICH HE HAD NO AUTHORITY TO CHANGE. HE POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT LOW COST HOUSING AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE ARE AVAILABLE AT ERDA LABS.

6. THE NAS REP. (LARRY MITCHELL) NOTED THAT RECENT FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES HAD FORCED NAS TO REDUCE THE ANNUAL QUOTA FROM 40 TO 25 MAN-MONTHS IN EACH DIRECTION. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THIS REDUCTION DID NOT REFLECT DISSATISFACTION WITH THE PROGRAM. IN ANY CASE, THE 40 MAN-MONTH QUOTA HAD NOT BEEN FULLY UTILIZED IN RECENT YEARS ON EITHER SIDE. MITCHELL THEN REFERRED TO A RECENT PROPOSAL BY ACTING ROMANIAN ACADEMY PRESIDENT SIMIONESCU WHICH SEEMS TO BRING THE PROGRAM MVRE F Y WITHIN THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL FRAMEWORK. NAS IS STILL STUDYING THE ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF THIS PROPOSAL AND WILL RESPOND IN DUE COURSE. MITCHELL ALSO UNCLASSIFIED

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EXPRESSED A FEAR THAT DECREE 95, PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT TO THE TAXATION OF GRANT INCOME, COULD IMPINGE ON THE EXCHANGE PROGRAM WITH UNFORTUNATE RESULTS. NAS GRANTS COVER ONLY EXPENSES, NOT SALARIES. WHILE THERE IS NO DIFFICULTY NOW, HE MENTIONED HIS CONCERN IN ORDER TO AVOID PROBLEMS IN THE FUTURE.

7. IN RESPONSE, MITRAN EXPLAINED THAT THE ROMANIAN ACADEMY HAS BEEN REORGANIZED. FIFTY RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS HAVE BEEN SHIFTED TO "PRODUCTIVE MINISTRIES." THE ACADEMY IS NOW A HONORIFIC INSTITUTION AND A FORUM TO DISCUSS THE STRATEGY OF SCIENCE. ACTUAL SCIENTIFIC WORK IS DONE IN THE MINISTRIES UNDER COORDINATION OF NCST. THE CHANGES IN THE ACADEMY'S ROLE DO NOT AFFECT COOPERATION WITH NAS, MITRAN STATED. HE ALSO CONTENDED THAT TAXATION APPLIES ONLY TO PERSONS IN A FULL-EMPLOYMENT SITUATION, NOT TO THOSE UNDER FELLOWSHIPS. MOREOVER, THE RECENT TAX CONVENTION CONCLUDED BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES ELIMINATES DOUBLE TAXATION. MATACHE ADDED THAT CONCERN OVER DECREE 95 IS "MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING. NOBODY HAS BECOME A "VICTIM" YET OF DECREE 95. HE ASSERTED IT WAS NOT INTENDED TO APPLY TO EXCHANGE CANDIDATES UNDER BILATERAL PROGRAMS.

8. DOT REP. (MS. DIANE ROBERTS) EXPRESSED DOT'S SATISFACTION OVER ITS THREE COOPERATIVE PROJECTS IN ROMANIA, I.E., ON THE PSYCHOLOGY OF RAILROAD PERSONNEL, ON RAIL CHECKING EQUIPMENT, AND ON SKID RESISTANCE. DOT IS MOST PLEASED WITH THE PSYCHOLOGY PROJECT BECAUSE IT IS APPLICABLE TO OTHER AREAS, FOR INSTANCE, AIR LINE PILOTS. ON THE PROBLEM SIDE, SHE MENTIONED THE SLOWNESS IN OBTAINING RESPONSE (AND RECEIVING MAIL) FROM ROMANIA, AS MUCH AS TWO TO THREE MONTHS, AND THE DIFFICULTIES SOME AMERICANS HAVE EXPERIENCED IN GAINING ACCESS TO CERTAIN LABS. THE CURRENT MOU EXPIRES IN NOVEMBER 1976, AND DOT IS PREPARED TO EXTEND IT FOR 5 MORE YEARS. THIRTEEN SPECIFIC AREAS WERE IDENTIFIED IN 1971 AS HAVING POTENTIAL FOR COOPERATION. SOME COULD DOUBTLESS BE DELETED AND PERHAPS OTHERS ADDED, WE LOOK FOR A CURRENT GOR REACTION TO THE THIRTEEN. DOT IS INTERESTED IN WORK IN THE SOCIAL-PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCES ASPECTS OF RAILROADS
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AND HIGHWAYS AND WOULD LIKE ADDITIONAL ROMANIAN CONTRIBUTIONS IN THESE FIELDS#

9. MITRAN RESPONDED THAT DOT INTERESTS WOULD HELP IN MEETING THE 60-40 FORMULA (60 NATURAL SCIENCES, 40 SOCIAL SCIENCES). ALSO, HE BELIEVES IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO SUBMIT GOR PROPOSALS BEFORE OR DURING THE WASHINGTON VISIT BY ROMANIAN MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION (NOTE: THE TIMING OF THE DUDAS VISIT HAS NOT YET BEEN FIXED). CONCERNING ACCESS TO ROMANIAN LABS, MITRAN POINTED TO THE NEED FOR SPECIFYING CLEARLY BEFOREHAND WHAT THE VISITOR WANTED TO SEE. HE ADDED THAT, IN FACT, THE REVERSE HAD HAPPENED IN SOME CASES, I.E., ROMANIAN HOSTS HAD TAKEN VISITORS TO PLACES WHERE THEY SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN TAKEN.

10. DHEW REP. (DR. ROBERT FISCHER) GAVE A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE EXCHANGE PROGRAM, WHICH CALLS FOR AN EXCHANGE OF 24 MAN-MONTHS IN EACH DIRECTION. BOTH SIDES, HE SAID, HAVE NOT MANAGED TO FULFILL THE QUOTAS: ONLY 2 ROMANIANS MADE VISITS OF ONE MONTH EACH HERE AND ONE AMERICAN WENT TO ROMANIA. ON THE US SIDE, DHEW HAS NOT DONE A GOOD JOB IN PUBLICIZING THIS EXCHANGE PROGRAM. CONVERSELY, THE ROMANIAN SIDE HAS NOT SUBMITTED A SINGLE CANDIDATE IN OVER A YEAR. LAST MARCH, A THREE-MAN DHEW TEAM TOURED BUCHAREST AND CLUJ TO EXPLORE THE ROMANIAN HEALTH SYSTEM AND TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING EXPANSION OF THE PROGRAM. IN GENERAL, THE TEAM WAS CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE POTENTIAL FOR COOPERATION BUT RECOMMENDED THAT SUCH COOPERATION EXPAND IN AN ORDERLY (I.E. GRADUAL) FASHION. TO IDENTIFY RESEARCH AREAS, DHEW HAD

DECIDED TO HOLD AT NIH IN THE SPRING OF 1976 A WORKSHOP ON HEALTH RESEARCH PRIORITIES, TO WHICH 6-8 ROMANIAN HEALTH SCIENTISTS AND ADMINISTRATORS HAVE BEEN INVITED. THE INVITATION HAD BEEN SENT TO THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, THROUGH THE AMERICAN EMBASSY. WE ARE STILL WAITING FOR A ROMANIAN RESPONSE ON THE AGENDA AND TIMING. THE TIMING OF THE WORKSHOP HAD ALREADY SLIPPED, PROBABLY TO MAY. IN A RELATED MATTER, WE HAD HOPED THAT THE WORKSHOP COULD OVERLAP WITH THE VISIT OF A ROMANIAN BIOLOGY DELEGATION. THE LAST MINUTE CANCELLATION OF THE BIOLOGY DELEGATION CAUSED SOME DISRUPTION IN NIH PLANNING AND RAISED CONCERN THAT ROMANIAN INTEREST IS LACKING IN THE WORKSHOP AS WELL.

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11. FINALLY, DR. FISCHER REPORTED THAT ONE YOUNG SCIENTIST HAD APPLIED TO DHEW LAST SEPTEMBER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE EXCHANGE PROGRAM. IN EARLY NOVEMBER, DHEW HAD SUBMITTED THIS PROGRAM TO THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, WITH A FOLLOW-UP INQUIRY ON DECEMBER 24. TO DATE, DHEW HAS NOT HAD A REPLY. FORTUNATELY, THIS APPLICANT IS A YOUNG MAN WITH A FLEXIBLE SCHEDULE. HOWEVER, THE LONG TURN-AROUND TIME IS DETRIMENTAL TO THE PROGRAM, PARTICULARLY FOR HIGHER-LEVEL SCIENTISTS.

12. IN HIS RESPONSE MITRAN PROMISED A PROMPT REPLY TO THE WORKSHOP INVITATION. HE THOUGHT THERE HAD BEEN 5 MONTHS OF ROMANIAN EXCHANGES RATHER THAN TWO. HE ASSURED US THAT THE LAST MINUTE CANCELLATION OF THE BIOLOGY DELEGATION WAS A QUOTE BUREAUCRATIC ACCIDENT UNQUOTE AND IS NOT REPRESENTATIVE OF ROMANIAN ATTITUDES TOWARDS THE PROGRAM. HE WOULD CONVEY OUR CONCERN OVER THE NEED FOR BETTER COMMUNICATIONS.

13. SCIATT SMITH INTERJECTED THAT JUST PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FROM BUCHAREST A FEW DAYS AGO, THE EMBASSY HAD RECEIVED A MINISTRY OF HEALTH RESPONSE REGARDING THE WORKSHOP. IT WAS BEING TRANSLATED AND SHOULD BE IN DHEW HANDS IN ABOUT A WEEK AND A HALF. HE THOUGHT THE RESPONSE FULLY ANSWERED DHEW'S QUESTIONS, ALTHOUGH REGRETTABLY WITH GREAT DELAY. THE MINISTRY PROPOSED THAT THE WORKSHOP BE CONVENED NO LATER THAN MAY 1976. INGERSOLL

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